

Today in Corps history:

Jan. 16, 1991: Marines participated in the offensive air action against Iraq as Operation Desert Storm began.

Source: Marine Corps History

FAST FACT



District News: 6th MCD supports education through donation, see Page 2

Local: Mental Health Unit provides Marines relief from stress, see Page 3

Feature: Gladden, Baxter named Depot Athletes of the Year, see Page 8

THE BOOT

“We Make Marines”

Inside



Youth basketball opens, Celtics, Storm win

The Celtics and the Storm, teams in the 11- and 12-year-old age group of the Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina youth basketball ...

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Volume 56 Number 2

Serving the Marines and Sailors of MCRD/ERR Parris Island, S.C.

January 16, 2004

Depot News

NHB SPECIAL HOLIDAY PHARMACY HOURS

Naval Hospital Beaufort's pharmacy and refill site will close today at 1 p.m. The main pharmacy will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and both will be closed Monday.

DEPOT THRIFT SHOP HAS NEW HOURS

The new Depot Thrift Shop hours are Wednesday, 9 a.m. - noon; Thursday - Friday 10 a.m. - noon. There will be a 25 cent sales rack and from Jan. 29 - 30 there will be a brown bag sale, where you can fill a bag for \$2 with any sale items.

For more information, call Marie Arndt at 228-2571.

ONE APPOINTMENT NOT ENOUGH FOR HEALTH

Women 40 and over are encouraged to make an appointment for a mammography by calling 228-5175 or 228-5198.

WARRIORS FOR CHRIST SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Parris Island Religious Ministries program Warriors For Christ is looking for new volunteers to help train recruits.

There is a meeting Jan. 30 and training is scheduled for Jan. 31. Registration by Jan. 28 is required. For more information, contact 332-0028.

On the Web

HERO MILES PROGRAM HELPS TROOPS HOME

Operation Hero Miles provides a way for people with extra frequent flyer miles to help troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan come home on leave. Since its inception in 2003, 19,200 round-trip flights have been free for troops thanks to more than 464 million miles that have been donated by the airlines and travelers. Hero Miles tickets are also used to fly family members of wounded soldiers to U.S. military hospitals to be at the bedside of their loved ones. More than 12 airlines currently participate in this program.

Visit www.heromiles.org for more details or to donate miles of your own.

Out in Town

CHARLESTON HOSTS ANNUAL OYSTER FEST

The 21st Annual Lowcountry Oyster Festival is scheduled for Jan. 25, beginning at 10 a.m., at Boone Hall Plantation in Charleston.

The festival boasts to be the world's largest and will include 65,000 pounds of oysters. Advance tickets are \$8 and are available at Charleston-area Applebee's restaurants. Tickets at the gate will be \$10 and children under 11 will be admitted free. Oysters will be sold by the bucket (approximately four dozen) at market price. Many local restaurants will also have food available.

Activities will include oyster shucking and eating contests, live music and a kids area.

For more information, call Kathy Britzius at 577-4030.

Weather



Friday
Partly Cloudy
Hi 56 Low 35
Saturday
Mostly Cloudy
Hi 58 Low 38
Sunday
Showers
Hi 61 Low 37

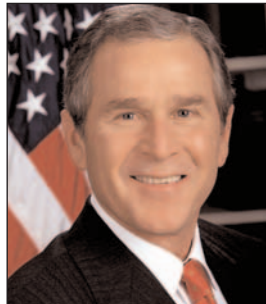
CPL. THOMAS PERRY

THE BOOT STAFF

President George W. Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19, replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

The new law will provide military personnel, especially those deployed or called to active duty, greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, said Defense Department officials.

"One of the biggest changes is that the delays and stay of proceedings due to military serv-



President George W. Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19, replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

ice authorized by the former SSCRA now apply to administrative proceedings as well as courts," said Capt. J. S. Stephens, defense counsel/ legal

assistance attorney at the Depot Law Center. "This had been a problem with the old act, as many issues, such as child support, can be handled

outside of court sessions in administrative hearings."

Department of Defense officials admit that this law is similar to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, but they stress the fact that the improvements will undoubtedly help service members.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick

Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. "The SCRA is a significant law because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections."

These protections, Lindemann believes, will fully protect active-duty military when they are most vulnerable.

"Service members on long-term deployments should not have to worry about their families

see ACT, Page 5

BAH change affects Depot

Increase ranges from \$1 - \$123 in Beaufort

CPL. THOMAS PERRY

STAFF WRITER

The Department of Defense has raised the Basic Allowance for Housing by an average of seven percent for 2004, but the monetary increase that many Marine ranks in the Beaufort area will see falls short of the National average.

Privates through corporals with dependants in the local area will see their monthly allowance increase from \$875 to \$900 - a 2.8 percent increase. A sergeant's BAH, with dependants, was raised from \$937 to \$938, and a master sergeant's BAH, with dependants, was raised from \$1,070 to \$1,101.

The Beaufort area numbers fall short of the national increases across the board, but many Depot Marines' initial reactions seemed positive.

Lance Corporal Jaime A. Zavalasoto, service record book clerk at the Depot Consolidated Administration Center, said he was happy even though he received just a

see BAH, Page 3



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester
Mary Elizabeth Pruett, Battery Creek High School junior and member of the school's JROTC chapter, begins her ascent up the rope on the 4th RTBn. obstacle course Jan. 9. The Battery Creek chapter visited the Depot for a tour and conducted some physical training.

Local JROTC visits Island

LANCE CPL. BRIAN KESTER

STAFF WRITER

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps is one of many ways for young men and women to see the opportunities and leadership that the military has to offer without having to sign on the dotted line.

The Battery Creek High School JROTC chapter visited the Depot for a tour of the facilities and some physical training Jan. 9. The students were afforded the opportunities of running an obstacle course, eating in the chow hall, and participating in simulated fire at the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Training facility.

According to the Marine Corps JROTC Web site, www.tecom.usmc.mil/jrotc/history.cfm, there are six categories of emphasis for tomorrow's leaders.

The program hopes to develop informed and responsible citizens, build character, teach students about the elements and requirements for national security, instill discipline as an important leadership skill, develop respect for authority, and enlighten students to possible career and educational choices.

The JROTC program develops and emphasizes the value of leadership and strives to instill those qualities in the members of the program.

While the national program sets the tone, the local chapters follow suit with locally applied guidelines.

The Battery Creek JROTC is a multi-faceted program that stresses discipline and a need for community service, along with physical and mental strength, said retired Maj. Jeff McGill, leader of the Battery Creek chapter.

The JROTC is structured around a high school schedule and has requirements set by the Department of Defense.

According to the Marine Corps Junior ROTC Web site, "The Junior ROTC program offered in a high school must be no less than three-years and no fewer than 96 hours of instruction each year. Usually, each year contains 180 hours of leadership instruction and application."

see JROTC, Page 7

Crews putting final touches on Field Training Facility

CPL. JENNIFER BROFER

STAFF WRITER

The Field Training Facility at WFTBn., which was originally scheduled for completion in August 2003, will be ready for use within the next few weeks.

The \$2.8 million facility will house the new Crucible Operations Center and have enough seating to accommodate up to 450 recruits for various training evolutions.

Depot Public Works saw a need for the facility shortly after Recruit Training Regiment began using Page Field for the Crucible in 1996.

According to David Woodward, architect for the Public Works engineering division, the old, out-dated facility simply had to go.

"The original COC was an old field

operations trailer," he explained. "When the Crucible came about under General Charles C. Krulak, we had to take a general purpose building and turn it into a makeshift temporary operations area."

The problem with this was the trailer did not fulfill all the varying needs of the recruits, as well as the staff members. To remedy this, Public Works personnel began drawing up plans for an all-purpose facility.

"We thought, let's give them a building they can work in that's big enough to handle whatever they need," said Woodward.

It took nearly 10 years for the request "to go through all the wickets," but the Public Works project was finally approved by Congress

see Build, Page 2



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer
The \$2.8 million Field Training Facility at WFTBn., which will house the new Crucible Operations Center, is expected to be ready for use within the next few weeks.